

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

NEW YORK CITY POLICING DURING  
SUMMER 2020 DEMONSTRATIONS

**FIRST INTERIM STIPULATION OF  
SETTLEMENT AND ORDER FOR  
ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND  
EXPENSES TO PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL  
FOR TIME AND EXPENSES INCURRED  
DURING PHASE I OF THE EQUITABLE  
SETTLEMENT PROCESS**

No. 20 Civ. 8924(CM)(GWG)

**WHEREAS**, beginning in late May 2020, and continuing into 2021, numerous protests, demonstrations, rallies, and other large public gatherings (hereinafter “First Amendment Activities” or “FAAs”) occurred in New York City, regarding police accountability and Black Lives Matter, prompting widespread response by the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”); and

**WHEREAS**, numerous lawsuits were filed against the City of New York in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York alleging that NYPD engaged in unconstitutional policing—using excessive force and arresting protestors, journalists, and legal observers without probable cause and in retaliation for their speech—at the aforementioned FAAs; and

**WHEREAS**, certain of those cases were consolidated by the Court into the above captioned matter; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of New York denied the allegations in the Consolidated Cases that it had violated Plaintiffs’ constitutional or statutory rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Plaintiffs in the Consolidated Cases (defined below), the City of New York, and certain Union Intervenors (hereinafter “Parties”), negotiated and entered into a Stipulated Order Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(2) (ECF. No. 1166-1) settling Plaintiffs’ claims for injunctive

relief against the City (hereinafter “the Equitable Settlement Agreement”) without further proceedings and without admitting any fault or liability; and

**WHEREAS**, by orders dated February 7, 2024 (ECF No. 1147) and April 17, 2024 (ECF No. 1167), the Court granted the Parties’ Joint Motion to Dismiss Injunctive Claims with Prejudice and Retain Jurisdiction, approved the Equitable Settlement Agreement as a consent decree, and retained jurisdiction to enforce that agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equitable Settlement Agreement established a three-phase process whereby the Parties would work collaboratively to create and implement new and revised training and policies related to NYPD’s policing of FAAs (Phase I), and then monitor the efficacy of those changes and reforms (Phases II & III); and

**WHEREAS**, Section XII of the Equitable Settlement Agreement required the City to establish a fund of \$1,450,000 for reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs accrued by Plaintiffs’ Counsel during Phase I and Phase II (“the Settlement Fund”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Equitable Settlement Agreement, the City is not obligated to pay to Plaintiffs’ Counsel a sum greater than the Settlement Fund related to the collaborative work on the three phases except in limited circumstances defined in the Equitable Settlement Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equitable Settlement Agreement set forth procedures for Plaintiffs’ Counsel to periodically submit requests for attorneys’ fees and costs to be paid out of the Settlement Fund, and for the City to reimburse reasonable work and costs incurred by Plaintiffs’ Counsel during Phase I; and

**WHEREAS**, Plaintiffs’ Counsel have submitted a request for reimbursement of fees and costs accrued during Phase I through March 13, 2025, as set forth below; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Plaintiffs' Counsel agree that Plaintiffs are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred during Phase I of the Equitable Settlement Agreement (the "First Interim Fee Period"), and

**WHEREAS**, negotiations have resulted in this First Interim Fee Stipulation which, subject to Court Approval, settles the attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses in this action, in the manner and upon the terms set forth below, for time and expenses incurred in this matter during the First Interim Fee Period.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED**, by and between the undersigned, as follows:

#### **DEFINITIONS**

1. "City" shall mean the City of New York.
2. "Consolidated Cases" shall refer to the cases bearing the captions *Payne, et al. v. Mayor Bill de Blasio et al.*, No. 20-cv-8924; *People of the State of New York v. City of New York et al.*, No. 21-cv-322; *Gray et al. v. City of New York, et al.*, 21-cv-6610; and *Rolon et al. v. City of New York, et al.*, 21-cv-2548.
3. "Defendants" shall mean the City of New York and its relevant agencies and employees.
4. "Effective Date" shall mean (30) thirty days following the "Final Approval Date" defined below, and shall also be the date upon which this First Interim Fee Stipulation enters into effect.
5. "First Interim Fee Period" shall mean the period of time beginning February 7, 2024 and through March 12, 2025.

6. “First Interim Fee Stipulation” shall mean this First Interim Stipulation Of Settlement And Order For Attorneys’ Fees, Costs, And Expenses To Plaintiffs’ Counsel For Time And Expenses Incurred During Phase I of the Equitable Settlement Process through March 12, 2025, executed by the Parties in the above-captioned action in accordance with Section XII of the Equitable Settlement Agreement.

7. “Final Approval Date” shall mean the date on which this Court endorses this First Interim Fee Stipulation and following any court proceedings and/or rulings, if applicable, in connection with the approval of this Fee Stipulation.

8. “Equitable Settlement Agreement” shall mean the Stipulated Order Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(2) filed on the docket at ECF No. 1099-2 and approved by the Court’s Orders of February 7 and April 17, 2024, as described above.

9. “Plaintiffs” shall mean the Plaintiffs in the Consolidated Cases.

10. “Plaintiffs’ Counsel” shall mean Plaintiffs’ attorneys of record in the Consolidated Cases during the First Interim Fee Period.

11. “Parties” shall mean Plaintiffs, the City of New York, and the Union Intervenors who joined the Equitable Settlement Agreement.

## **INTRODUCTION**

12. The Plaintiffs and the City enter into this First Interim Fee Stipulation after arm’s length good faith negotiations for the purpose of avoiding the burdens of further litigation over the payment of attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses to Plaintiffs’ Counsel for time and expenses incurred in this action during the First Interim Fee Period.

13. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

**ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND EXPENSES  
DURING THE FIRST INTERIM FEE PERIOD**

14. Plaintiffs' Counsel represent that they are authorized to receive payment on behalf of the Plaintiffs in full satisfaction of all claims for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses in, arising from, or in connection with this action during the First Interim Fee Period.

15. The City agrees to pay attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, totaling Two Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars and no cents (\$242,382.00) to Plaintiffs' Counsel for time and expenses incurred in this matter during the First Interim Fee Period. Plaintiffs hereby agree that payment shall be made by two checks or electronic fund transfers as follows:

- One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$120,000.00) to Wylie Stecklow PLLC; and
- One Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars and no cents (\$122,382.00) to New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation.

Except for the potential use of these hours as described in paragraph 21, Plaintiffs accept said payments in full satisfaction of all claims for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses in, arising from, or in connection with this action, during the First Interim Fee Period.

16. Plaintiffs' Counsel represent and warrant that the two payees listed in paragraph 14 above have negotiated an agreement with all Plaintiffs' Counsel to receive and distribute the funds paid under this First Interim Fee Stipulation, and that the City shall be indemnified and held harmless by the recipients of those funds against any disagreements or disputes arising amongst Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Counsel relating to the distribution of said funds.

17. The two (2) payments specified in paragraph 14 above shall be made within sixty (60) days from the Effective Date of this Stipulation and Order. No interest shall accrue if payment is issued within 60 days from the Effective Date of this Stipulation and Order. Any payment

received beyond the 60 day period shall accrue interest as provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

18. This First Interim Fee Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**RELEASE**

19. Except for the application for attorneys' fees, expenses, or costs at any time except as specified in paragraph 21 below, this First Interim Fee Stipulation resolves all claims for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses to Plaintiffs' Counsel incurred in this matter during the First Interim Fee Period, in accordance with the provisions of the Equitable Settlement Agreement, as set forth in Section XII therein.

20. Plaintiffs' Counsel, having been assigned the rights to attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses by Plaintiffs, hereby agree and represent that no other claims for attorneys' fees, expenses, or costs arising out of this action, for time and expenses incurred by Plaintiffs' Counsel in this matter during the First Interim Fee Period shall be made by or on behalf of Plaintiffs' Counsel or Plaintiffs in any application for attorneys' fees, expenses, or costs at any time except as specified in paragraph 21 below.

21. The Plaintiffs and the City agree that, should there be any amount remaining in the Settlement Fund, Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Counsel may submit further requests for reimbursement of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, including any incurred during Phase I that were not paid as part of the First Interim Fee Stipulation, from the remainder of the Settlement Fund. However, under no circumstances shall the City be obligated to pay to Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Counsel a sum greater than the Settlement Fund except in the limited circumstances set forth in the Equitable Settlement Agreement.

22. This First Interim Fee Stipulation shall not be admissible in, nor is it related to, any other litigation or settlement negotiations outside of the above-captioned action, except to enforce the terms of this agreement.

23. This First Interim Fee Stipulation contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by counsel for Defendants and Plaintiffs hereto, and no oral agreement entered into at any time nor any written agreement entered into prior to the execution of this First Interim Fee Stipulation regarding the subject matter of attorneys' fees, expenses, or costs to Plaintiffs' Counsel for time and expenses incurred in this matter during the First Interim Fee Period shall be deemed to exist, or to bind the Plaintiffs or the City hereto, or to vary the terms and conditions contained herein, except that this First Interim Fee Stipulation shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Equitable Settlement Agreement.

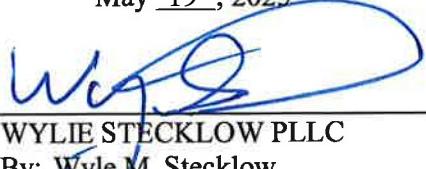
24. Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' Counsel, and the City stipulate that this First Interim Fee Stipulation does not implicate or otherwise affect any rights, duties, or obligations of the Union Intervenors, and that the Union Intervenors are not necessary parties to this First Interim Fee Stipulation.

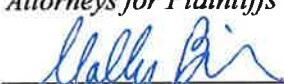
#### **NULLIFICATION**

25. In the event the Court does not approve this First Interim Fee Stipulation, the Plaintiffs and the City shall meet and confer in good faith to determine whether to agree upon a modified

First Interim Fee Stipulation. If they are unable to do so, this First Interim Fee Stipulation shall become null and void.

Dated: New York, New York  
May 19, 2025

  
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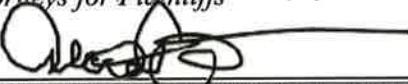
  
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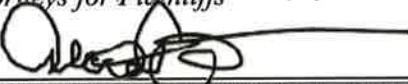
  
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Dated: New York, New York  
May \_\_\_, 2025

SO ORDERED:

HONORABLE COLLEEN MCMAHON  
United States District Judge